

# The Window



**ST. PAUL**  
United Methodist Church

525 Beech Street  
Abilene, Tx 79601  
325.672.7814  
[www.stpaulabilene.org](http://www.stpaulabilene.org)

*"Send out Thy truth and Thy light; let them lead us." --Psalm 43:4a*

February, 2023

## " SENT "

*"Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him..." (John 13:16)*

In the eight months I've been here, this incredible congregation navigated its way through a season of discernment over denominational division, and relaunching of church activities that St Paul previously cancelled due to the pandemic. 2022 was also marked by changes to church staff, with the departures of Pastor Steve Patterson, Adam Samuels, Scot Yarbrough, and Jason Abney. However, St. Paul also celebrated the arrival of new staff as well—Rev. Dr. Russell Miller (Director of Worship), Nancy Chancey (Financial Secretary), Anthony Avina (Youth Intern), and myself. Last February, I had no idea that God would send me to be the senior pastor of St. Paul UMC for such a time as this last eight months, and for a new season in the story of St. Paul UMC. I'm encouraged by the way that our new Discernment Team is working to bring St. Paul back from being in "survival mode," and to position St. Paul to do great things for God in the year ahead.

The new year began with a new precedent for combined worship with First Central Presbyterian Church on Sunday, January 8, for their Festival of Faith. The following Sunday, we also began our new worship time of 10:30am for the main service. As January ends, and a new month begins, I invite you to consider all of the new things God has in store for St. Paul in 2023—from new worship times and new programs, to new staff and new members... and even a new baby Van Fleet becoming part of our family in May!

I'm also excited to start the new year with a new sermon series called "SENT," that looks at the lives of thirteen people, sent with one mission: to know Jesus Christ, and to make Jesus known. Who are they? I'll give you a hint: Kenneth Wyatt painted twelve of their portraits. And the other one? Well, you'll just have to join us on Easter Sunday to find out! I look forward to seeing you in-person, or online!

With Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace from Christ –

# Birthdays!

## February 1

Pat McRoy

## February 2

James Boynton  
Hank Duncan  
Laura Ann Weber

## February 3

Marly Gabriel  
Todd Rogers

## February 4

Ann Bridwell  
Steve Chappell  
Josh Hamaty

## February 8

Terry Wolfer

## February 9

Anna Van Fleet

## February 10

Bonnie Miller

## February 12

Mark Marsh

## February 13

Maria Sanchez

## February 15

Martha Faulkenberry

## February 16

Arron Mason

## February 18

Ralph McCleskey

## February 19

Edward McRoy  
Patty Rogers  
Abe Van Fleet

## February 20

Pate Hughes  
Colin Kappel

## February 23

Julia Barela Velasquez  
Gina Bridwell  
Fermin Sanchez

## February 27

Patricia Hartmann

## February 28

Tina Hoffman

## (February 29)

Pat Mouser

# Activities at a Glance...

## Wednesday, February 1

10:00 am Prayer Team  
1:30 pm Staff Meeting  
6:00 pm Fellowship Meal  
6:30 pm Classes/Choir  
7:30 pm Praise & Prayer

## Sunday, February 5

8:30 am Worship Service  
9:30 am Sunday School  
10:30 am Worship Service  
1:30 pm Wesley Court Communion

## Monday, February 6

5:30 pm Chancel Ringers  
6:00 pm Boy Scouts

## Tuesday, February 7

4:00 pm St. Paul @Food Pantry

## Wednesday, February 8

7:00 am UMM Breakfast  
10:00 am Prayer Team  
1:30 pm Staff Meeting  
6:00 pm Fellowship Meal  
6:30 pm Classes/Choir  
7:30 pm Praise & Prayer

## Thursday, February 9

2:00 pm In the Loop @McMurry

## Sunday, February 12

8:30 am Worship Service  
9:30 am Sunday School  
10:30 am Worship Service

## Monday, February 13

5:30 pm Chancel Ringers  
6:00 pm Boy Scouts

## Wednesday, February 15

10:00 am Prayer Team  
1:30 pm Staff Meeting  
6:00 pm Fellowship Meal  
6:30 pm Classes/Choir  
7:30 pm Praise & Prayer

## Sunday, February 19

8:30 am Worship Service  
9:30 am Sunday School  
10:30 am Worship Service

## Monday, February 20

5:30 pm Chancel Ringers  
6:00 pm Boy Scouts

## Tuesday, February 21

5:00 pm Finance Meeting  
6:00 pm Fat Tuesday  
Pancake Supper

## Wednesday, February 22

10:00 am Prayer Team  
12:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship  
1:30 pm Staff Meeting  
6:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship

## Thursday, February 23

2:00 pm In The Loop @St Paul  
5:00 pm Board of Trustees

## Sunday, February 26

### *First Sunday in Lent*

8:30 am Worship Service  
9:30 am Sunday School  
10:30 am Worship Service  
5:00 pm Ad Board Meeting

## Monday, February 27

5:30pm Chancel Ringers  
6:00 pm Boy Scouts

## *Certified Lay Servant Training*

**Saturday, February 11, 2023**

**9:00am to 4:00pm**

Cost: \$50 (includes book and lunch)

Location: St. James UMC, Abilene  
3100 Barrow St. (entrance in the back)

This is the foundational course required to become a Certified Lay Servant. We will discuss ways we grow in Christlikeness and ways we can care for and lead others in their walk with Jesus. For optimum learning, please read the book before attending. The session will be facilitated by Jocelyn Furr.

Please send an email to Paula in the District Office to register. (paula@abilenedistrict.com) You may mail a check or pay the day of the class. A book will be mailed to you.

## Office Hours

**Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

**Closed Bank Holidays**

# Sympathy

**Bill Libby** died Saturday, January 7, 2023. Services were Saturday, January 14, 2023 at St. Paul.

**Ginny Chrostowski**, *Nancy Chancey's aunt*, died Monday, January 23, 2023 in Kansas City, Missouri.

## Memorials and Gifts...

In Memory Of:  
**Bill Libby**

To Flower Fund  
*Ray Maddox*

To Memorial Fund  
*Bill & Maedene Armer*  
*Tucker & Gina Bridwell*  
*Jim & Holly Hays*  
*Iris Nash*

To Methodist Food Pantry  
*Harry & Susan Hoyt*

To Music Fund  
*Robert Monk*

## Betty's Book Club

Wednesday Nights

6:30 pm  
Wesley Friendship  
Hall

Led by Betty Shipley



## United Methodist Men Breakfast

Wednesday, February 8, 2023

7:00 a.m. @ St Paul UMC  
(Wesley Friendship Hall)



Join us for a great breakfast,  
program and fellowship.

Program: Dan Fergus, Jr.  
His recent trip to Antarctica

## FAT TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

February 21, 2023

6:00 p.m.

Wesley Friendship Hall

Love Offering to Benefit  
The Methodist Food Pantry



## ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

February 22, 2023

12:00 pm - Chapel  
6:00 pm - Sanctuary

*sisterhood*

BUILDING SISTERS IN CHRIST  
RUTH 1:16-17

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Butman Camp's 16th Annual  
Ladies Retreat  
February 17th at 6PM - February 18th at 4PM

Register online at:  
[butmancamp.org](http://butmancamp.org)







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St. Paul United Methodist Family Thanks God For:

*Good Food and Fellowship  
at January Pot Luck Lunch*



**Next Pot Luck  
April 30, 2023**